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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 12:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

This letter is a comment on the Microsoft settlement.

While the settlement does implement some needed changes, such as OEM licencing, the overall settlement is far too weak. This is not an opinion I hold on my own; rather, most descriptions of the settlement in the press and other places have remarked on how lenient it is with Microsoft. A remarkable amount of the settlement is open to broad interpretation, and potential loopholes abound. For example, with the open-source project Wine (<http://www.winehq.org> <<http://www.winehq.org>>) be able to access Windows API? No one seems to know for sure. Even without the loopholes, the penalties for non-compliance do not seem like penalties at all. There are too many ways for Microsoft, with it's excellent legal team, to get away with basically whatever it wants. This is especially disheartening, since it seems as if Microsoft will soon use it's same tried and true tactics to promote it's .NET platform.

With Microsoft's repeated and widespread abuse of it's monopoly power, drastic remedies are needed. It is not in the interests of the public to deal gently with Microsoft. The trial has been long, and will be the last chance for a while to change Microsoft's anticompetitive business practices. This trial is simply too important to let an inferior settlement stand.

I strongly urge the court to reject the settlement.